

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A user equipment (UE) capable of conducting cell search in a wireless communication system having a plurality of base stations which each transmit a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a system frame, and a midamble code in a broadcast channel, a transmitted power level of the PSC and the midamble code being at a common fixed ratio for each of said base stations, the UE comprising:

a receiver for receiving said PSCs;

a signal power measuring device for measuring the power level of received PSCs and identifying a frame timing of received PSCs which exceed a power threshold; and

a processor for analyzing data signals received in the primary synchronization channel associated with the PSC with the highest power level of the received PSCs with a threshold exceeding power level and synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with said highest PSC, said data signals including secondary synchronization codes.

2. The user equipment of claim 1 wherein said signal power measuring device comprises:

a matched filter matched to the common PSC for measuring each PSC received from said plurality of base stations;

a noise estimator which determines the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations; and

a comparator for determining the power threshold and comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of said highest PSC.

3. The user equipment of claim 2 wherein said processor comprises:

a SSC processor responsive to said frame timing output from said signal power measuring device which detects said secondary synchronization codes in said primary synchronization channel to identify the base station associated with the frame timing to extract base station information which includes the midamble codes; and

a synchronization processor responsive to said SSC processor which detects a primary scrambling code.

4. The user equipment of claim 3 wherein said base station information further includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

5. A wireless communication system comprising:

a plurality of base stations which each transmit a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a system frame, and a midamble code in a broadcast channel, a transmitted power level of the PSC and midamble code being a common fixed ratio for each of said base stations; and

a user equipment (UE) capable of conducting cell search, comprising:

a receiver for receiving said PSCs;

a signal power measuring device for measuring the power level of received PSCs and identifying a frame timing of received PSCs which exceed a power threshold; and

a processor for analyzing data signals received in the primary synchronization channel associated with the PSC with the highest power level of the received PSCs with a threshold exceeding power level and synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with said highest PSC, said data signals including secondary synchronization codes.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said signal power measuring device comprises:
a matched filter matched to the common PSC for measuring each PSC received from said plurality of base stations;

a noise estimator which determines said power threshold based upon the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations; and

a comparator for determining the power threshold, comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of the said highest PSC.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said processor comprises:

a SSC processor responsive to said frame timing output from said signal power measuring device which detects said secondary synchronization codes in said primary synchronization channel to identify the base station associated with the frame timing to extract base station information which includes the midamble codes; and

a synchronization processor responsive to said SSC processor which detects a primary scrambling code.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said base station information further includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

9. A method of cell search in a wireless communication system having a plurality of base stations and a user equipment (UE), the method comprising:

each of said plurality of base stations:

transmitting a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a frame; and

transmitting a midamble code in a broadcast channel, whereby a transmission power level of the midamble code and the PSC is at a same fixed ratio for each of said base stations; and

at the UE:

receiving said PSCs;

measuring the power level of received PSCs;

identifying a frame timing of the PSC with the highest power level of the received PSCs which exceed a power threshold;

analyzing data signals received in the primary synchronization channel having received PSCs with a threshold exceeding power level, said data signals including secondary synchronization codes; and

synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with said highest PSC.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

determining said power threshold based upon the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations;

comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of said highest PSC;

detecting said secondary synchronization codes in said primary synchronization channel to identify the base station associated with the frame timing to extract base station information which includes said midamble codes; and

detecting a primary scrambling code.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said base station information includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

12. A user equipment (UE) capable of conducting cell search in a wireless communication system having a plurality of base stations which each transmit a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a system frame, and a midamble code in a broadcast channel, a transmitted power level of the PSC and the midamble code being at a common fixed ratio for each of said base stations, the UE comprising:

a receiver for receiving said PSCs;

a signal power measuring device for measuring the power level of received PSCs and identifying a frame timing of the received PSCs which exceed a power threshold to extract base station information which includes the midamble codes; and

a processor for detecting a primary scrambling code associated with the received PSCs which exceed the power threshold and synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold, whereby the ratio of the power threshold and the received power level of the midamble code associated with said one PSC exceeds said common ratio.

13. The UE of claim 12 wherein said signal power measuring device comprises:

a matched filter matched to the common PSC for measuring each PSC received from said plurality of base stations;

a noise estimator which determines said power threshold based upon the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations; and

a comparator for comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of the identified PSCs which exceed the power threshold.

14. The UE of claim 13 wherein the identity of the base station associated with received PSCs which exceed the power threshold is known to the UE based on said frame timing, said known identity being used to extract said midamble code.

15. The UE of claim 14 wherein said processor synchronizes to the base station associated with the highest power level of one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold.

16. The UE of claim 15 wherein said base station information further includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

17. A method of cell search in a wireless communication system having a plurality of base stations and a user equipment (UE), the method comprising:

each of said plurality of base stations:

transmitting a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a frame; and

transmitting a midamble code in a broadcast channel, whereby a transmission power level of the midamble code and the PSC is at a same fixed ratio for each of said base stations; and

at the UE:

receiving said PSCs;

measuring the power level of received PSCs;

identifying a frame timing of the received PSCs which exceed a power threshold to extract base station information which includes the midamble codes;

detecting a primary scrambling code associated with the received PSCs which exceed the power threshold in response to said midamble codes; and

synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold, whereby the ratio of the power threshold and the received power level of the midamble code associated with said one PSC exceeds said common ratio.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising of the UE the steps of:

determining said power threshold based upon the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations; and

comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of the identified PSCs which exceed the predetermined power threshold.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said UE synchronizes to the base station associated with the highest power level of one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein said base station information further includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

21. A wireless time division duplex communication system comprising:

a plurality of base stations which each transmit a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a system frame, and a midamble code in a broadcast channel, a transmitted power level of the PSC and the midamble code being at a common fixed ratio for each of said base stations; and

a UE comprising:

a receiver for receiving said PSCs;

a signal power measuring device for measuring the power level of received PSCs and identifying a frame timing of the received PSCs which exceed a power threshold to extract base station information which includes the midamble codes; and

a processor for detecting a primary scrambling code associated with the received PSCs which exceed the power threshold and synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold, whereby the ratio of the power threshold and the received power level of the midamble code associated with said one PSC exceeds said common ratio.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said signal power measuring device comprises:

a matched filter matched to the common PSC for measuring each PSC received from said plurality of base stations;

a noise estimator which determines said power threshold based upon the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations; and

a comparator for comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of the identified PSCs which exceed the power threshold.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the identity of the base station associated with received PSCs which exceed the power threshold is known to the UE based on said frame timing, said known identity being used to extract said midamble code.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein said UE synchronizes to the base station associated with the highest power level of one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold.

25. The UE of claim 23 wherein said base station information further includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

26. A wireless time division duplex communication system comprising:

a plurality of base stations which each transmit a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a system frame, and a midamble code in a broadcast channel, a transmitted power level of the PSC and the midamble code being at a common fixed ratio for each of said base stations; and

a UE comprising:

a means for receiving said PSCs;

a means for measuring the power level of received PSCs and identifying a frame timing of the received PSCs which exceed a power threshold to extract base station information which includes the midamble codes; and

a means for detecting primary scrambling code associated with the received PSCs which exceed the power threshold and synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold, whereby the ratio of the power threshold and the received power level of the midamble code associated with said one PSC exceeds said common ratio.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein said signal power measuring device comprises:

a means for determining said power threshold based upon the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations; and

a means for comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of the identified PSCs which exceed the power threshold.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein the identity of the base station associated with received PSCs which exceed the power threshold is known to the UE based on said frame timing, said known identity being used to extract said midamble code.

29. The system of claim 28 wherein said UE synchronizes to the base station associated with the highest power level of one of said PSCs which exceed the power threshold.

30. The UE of claim 28 wherein said base station information further includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

31. A wireless communication system comprising:

a plurality of base stations which each transmit a common primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel at a different timing within a system frame, and a midamble code in a broadcast channel, a transmitted power level of the PSC and midamble code being a common fixed ratio for each of said base stations; and

a user equipment (UE) capable of conducting cell search, comprising:

a means for receiving said PSCs;

a means for measuring the power level of received PSCs and identifying a frame timing of received PSCs which exceed a power threshold; and

a means for analyzing data signals received in the primary synchronization channel associated with the PSC with the highest power level of the received PSCs with a threshold exceeding power level and synchronizing or maintaining synchronization with the base station associated with said highest PSC, said data signals including secondary synchronization codes.

32. The system of claim 31 wherein said means for measuring comprises:

a means for determining the noise power received from each transmission of said plurality of base stations; and

a processing means for determining the power threshold, comparing said measured power levels of said received PSC with said threshold and outputting the frame timing of the said highest PSC.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein said means for analyzing comprises:

a means for detecting said secondary synchronization codes in said primary synchronization channel to identify the base station associated with the frame timing to extract base station information which includes the midamble codes in response to said frame timing; and

a synchronization means responsive to said means for detecting for communicating with said base station using a primary scrambling code.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein said base station information further includes a time offset, frame index number, time slot of the transmitted PSC, received power, and time of arrival relative to the UE.

35. A method of time synchronizing a plurality of base stations in a wireless communication system, the system having a plurality of base stations which transmit a primary synchronization code (PSC) in a primary synchronization channel, wherein each base station's PSC is transmitted in a different timing within a system frame, and a midamble code in a broadcast channel, and a user equipment, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving said PSC for each of said plurality of base stations;

measuring a power level of received PSCs;

detecting a frame timing of said PSCs which have a power level greater than a power threshold;

identifying the base stations associated with the PSCs which exceed said power threshold and extracting base station information including a time offset and time slot of said identified base stations;

adjusting the frame timing of the PSC of said identified base stations in response to said time offset;

calculating a time of arrival (TOA) for each of said adjusted PSC's frame timing; and
adjusting a timing of said base station in response to said TOAs.

36. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of identifying the base stations includes the steps of :

detecting secondary synchronization codes (SSCs) in said primary synchronization channel; and

performing a confidence test on said SSCs.

37. The method of claim 37 wherein the step of adjusting said frame timing in response to said TOA includes the steps of :

calculating a time distance of arrival (TDOA) for each of said identified base stations using the TOA;

comparing said calculated TDOA to a stored TDOA; and

generating a timing error based on said comparison.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein a transmitted power level of the midamble code and the PSC being a common fixed ratio for each of said base stations.